

### **Foot and mouth disease (FMD) outbreaks in Greece, 1996.**

A total of 39 FMD outbreaks were reported in Greece between 3 July and 30 September, 1996. All outbreaks were type O and recorded in the Prefecture of Evros in eastern Greece, bordering Turkish Thrace. Nucleotide sequencing of the virus isolates have confirmed that the virus strain causing the outbreaks was the same as that causing outbreaks on the Turkish side.

In the "Final Report on the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease in Greece" prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture, Greece in April 1997 an attempt is made in Table 1 to give the source and means of infection of outbreaks. The epidemiological terminology used in relation to means of infection as regards outbreak numbers . 96/4; 96/7; 96/11; 96/27; and 96/38 is "Human contact (illegal immigrants) "or" Indirect contact (Wild animals and/or illegal immigrants)"

During a mission to Evros in 1997 the Commission was informed that:

1. Police and the armed forces are present in the border area and when illegal immigrants are caught they are immediately put in isolation (prison) and returned to the country of origin as soon as possible. The night the EC mission stayed in Evros it was reported that 131 persons originating from Pakistan was caught when they were trying to cross the River.
2. During discussions with farmers the mission was informed that by use of dogs and daily check of barns and stables attempts were made to ensure that illegal immigrants could not be in contact with farm animals. In the event it was discovered in the morning that some unknowns had been in a barn or stable during the night all waste materials left by the unknowns and hay or straw which might have been used as bedding were destroyed.